

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention relates to a method ~~in accordance with the preamble of Claim 1 and to a discharge device in accordance with the preamble of Claim 5~~ and a discharge device for electrically discharging a printing material to which toner has been applied.--

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 1 beginning "This object..." and ending "...Claims 1 and 5."

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 1 beginning "The subclaims relate..." and ending "...of the invention."